

As a small business person of Saint Marys GA I attended this past Thursday night, a Steering Committee Meeting for the future vision of Saint Marys ,about 20 citizens were present . The committee is struggling with a low public participation problem at the same time as printed in our Tribune -Georgian many citizens have a low opinion of said process. I signed a document to make a public comment which was ignored and made an outcry to be heard and was received only by the Chairperson and 2 other citizens ,My statement was and remains how can you expect the public to equitably participate in such a visioning process while such a negatively impactful zoning change is being rallied by the City and public officials .The Chairperson oddly enough is a Michael J. Rich who also resides on the City Planning Commission told me " I should get over it " and if I didn't like it " I should file an appeal". The public should know this is the leadership of our visioning committee. And I contend this is an exceptional example of a few steering the future of all of Saint Marys. At the last Public Planning Commission meeting a member of planning commission blurted that our new planning director supports this zoning change and in a public forum. I find that hard to receive when the public voice has not been heard for a final decision. To limit public comment to 5 minutes when the national standard is 10 minutes and allow less than 21 days for the public to review of our city's planners best input and inadequate unmitigated recommendations, I contend is highly ambiguous. I encourage any citizen to rally around the encouraging words of Mr. Michael J Rich Chairperson for City of Saint Marys visioning committee and an appointed planning commission member to embark on an appeal if said zoning amendment is approved as he suggested to me and also I would encourage all inhabitants also to think of the motive of any local board member, association planning department, employee planning commission members, city council person and our Mayor on this undefined industrial use and detrimental zoning amendment to this Historic Town. Ask the question: Does this truly benefit the future and citizens of Saint Marys? Does this zoning amendment benefit a few private developers or a few public officials as group for self serving purposes . I contend if any of the above mentioned, support the zoning amendment they have all failed in protecting the public safety of our family's, children and way of life in Saint Marys GA as we know it today . On Osborne Street, the Gateway to Cumberland Island and the road where this developer has represented his 3000 trucks a day will have access, I repeat, we have children at our Saint Marys Aquatic center, at the public library, at the Middle school and at the bicycle shop that children and family's frequent . Many areas of the access points rail and roads have residences directly facing the traffic no sidewalks safety curbing . The most frightening stretch for bicyclist is Osborne Street. OPEN YOUR EYES PLEASE! Effects of Rezoning and the Railroad. My letter to the planning commission on February 25th brought light on the issue of hazardous waste being trans loaded in front of the Children's Park in downtown Saint Marys north side of W Gallop street. there has been silence, no comment from the City or the Saint Marys railroad? or the Planning Commission? I contend, the City is ignoring and depreciating and marginalizing the least vulnerable of this town especially the residents of Finlay street and directly across from this proposed site Saint Patrick street and on both sides of the rail way on West Gallop street. But most importantly the public safety at large. To trade off an approved 1 billion dollar deep waterfront mixed used residential development with city water

and sewer to maybe benefit a few with no definitive plan at the gateway to Cumberland Island. I would ask one more time to VOTE NO our future is in your hands even if you think it is politically incorrect use your own hearts and sound judgement and think of the kids. The local chat in this Historical Town won't be: "ISNT SAINT MARYS NICE, BUT WASN'T SAINT MARYS NICE". If this zoning amendment is approved on a positive note published in Georgia Trend this week a sensible and sober Judge ruled to overturn the Kinder-Morgan eminent domain palmetto pipeline appeal on March 2. The Energy Giant Kinder Morgan's argument was a pipeline constructed is much safer on the environment and the public's safety than the barges and truck traffic. Think about that argument.

Thank You

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